

force that has suffered over 5,000 policemen killed in the past decade, fighting the war on drugs. They more than anyone else, captured the essence of what Julio F. Mercado has meant to international law enforcement. His name is spoken with great respect and warmth wherever honest cops gather. He is truly a "cop's cop."

I am proud to stand in the halls of the United States Congress to recognize Julio F. Mercado for his superb service to this great nation. He is a role model for young Americans. He grew up in the D.E.A. and the D.E.A. grew with him. The success of this great law enforcement agency is the culmination of the efforts of men and women like Julio Mercado. His story is an outstanding example of how one man, who came from humble beginnings, can serve his country and his fellow man and can truly make a difference. Our country owes him and his family, a great debt of gratitude.

JULIO F. MERCADO, DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR,
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Julio F. Mercado began his law enforcement career with the New York Police Department, assigned to the 47th Precinct, in 1973. During that period, he worked with DEA as part of the Task Force. Mr. Mercado's employment with DEA commenced in 1979, with his assignment to the New York Field Division. During his tenure, he conducted nearly 700 undercover buys and had a 100% conviction rate. Mr. Mercado, who is fluent in the Spanish language, remained in New York until his assignment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1984. He was promoted to Group Supervisor in 1987 and was transferred to the McAllen District Office, McAllen, Texas. In 1990, Mr. Mercado received his first Headquarters assignment and served as Staff Coordinator of the Heroin Investigations Section until 1992. Next, he was assigned to the Special Operations Division, where he served as the Deputy Chief. In 1995, Mr. Mercado was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Caribbean Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico. During this assignment he became involved in many high-profile cases, as well as community drug education and prevention programs in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Mercado was selected as Special Agent in charge, Dallas Field Division, Dallas, Texas, on February 21, 1997, and reported on May 25, 1997. On November 2, 1999, Mr. Mercado was named Acting Deputy Administrator of the DEA and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Deputy Administrator on June 29, 2000. He was sworn in on September 12, 2000.

Mr. Mercado is a member of the Greater Dallas Crime Commission; the Texas Police Chiefs Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Texas Narcotics Officers Association. He attended John Jay College in New York, with a major in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Mercado and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children and four grandchildren.

**HONORING MR. JOHN YOUNGER OF
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Younger of Nashville, Ten-

nessee, on the occasion of his retirement. John Younger's thirty-year career in education has fittingly culminated in his most recent position as headmaster at Franklin Road Academy (FRA). Younger has risen to the top of his profession both in the public and private school systems.

John Younger is well respected by his peers and former students as a master educator. In fact, Mr. Younger taught me as a student at Hillsboro High School. We've been privileged to work together over the years in many capacities. I consider him a good friend and mentor.

Younger earned a B.S. degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and a Master's of Mathematics and Educational Administration from George Peabody College. He is the Chairman of the Board of the Tennessee Teachers Credit Union and also chairs the Personnel Committee at Christ Episcopal Church.

Mr. Younger is a familiar face to students in Nashville. Beginning at the teaching level, he spent a number of years as an educator in the Davidson County Metropolitan School System teaching mathematics at both Hillsboro and Issac Litton High Schools, as well as coaching football, basketball and track.

His move to the administrative level came in 1965, when he was named assistant principal for Highland Heights Junior High School. In 1967 he became principal at Bellevue High School overseeing more than 750 seventh through twelfth grade students.

Due to his outstanding performances, Younger was recruited for the "central office" at Metro Schools, where he initially served as Supervisor of Mathematics. In this position, he developed the math curriculum, selected textbooks, assigned teachers, and coordinated staff development for the entire Metro School System.

Continuing with Metro Schools, Younger was named Director of Employer Relations, where he negotiated for all employees in the school system, developed personnel policies, and resolved grievances. In 1978, Younger became the Assistant Superintendent for Business Services where he was responsible for all business and financial activities of Metro Schools. Again climbing in Metro Schools, he was named Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, accountable for school programs involving 67,000 students before retiring from the public school system.

However, Younger returned to education when approached by the Board of Trustees at FRA in 1994 to become the Director of Business and Finance. Soon after making the transition to Franklin Road Academy (FRA) he was asked to spearhead an effort to construct a new middle school and fine arts center. His time at FRA has proven extremely fruitful and produced much growth.

Further, he has been active in civic and community organizations, serving on the boards of the PENCIL Foundation, the American Heart Association, the East Nashville YMCA, and the Old Hickory Country Club. Additionally, he is past president of the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials.

John Younger has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to the educational field numerous times by his peers. These awards include: Tennessee's Outstanding Achievement Award from Governor Ned Ray

McWherter in 1992; Educational Administrator of the Year for Metropolitan Nashville Schools; Distinguished Service Award and Life Membership Award from the Tennessee Association of School Business Officials; and Distinguished Member Award from the Southeastern Association of School Business Officials.

Younger's wife Jessica is a teacher with experience in both public and private schools throughout Middle Tennessee. They have one daughter, Mary Clare, of Knoxville.

Although John Younger is a man of stature in the community, he is never too busy to stop and listen to students or serve those around him. His life is a true success story—one of joy, humility, faith, friendship, and truth. I wish him the best in his retirement and all of his future endeavors.

**BLUE COLLAR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES DESERVE BETTER**

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 225,000 blue-collar employees who work for the federal government. These trade, craft, and labor employees are essential to our federal government's daily operation, yet we are not treating them with respect and dignity by paying them fairly under the Federal Wage System. Today I am introducing legislation, the Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001, which addresses the fundamental problems with our federal wage system.

Blue-collar federal employees, a majority of whom work for the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), are key to the security and defense of our nation. They perform a range of duties critical to the success of military missions and the safety of our soldiers. They maintain our tanks and fighter planes, they repair ships and they handle munitions. It is by their sweat and hard work that we show our commitment to and support of our armed forces.

Wage grade employees in the VA are the men and women who work to fulfill America's promise to our veterans. Many of these workers are veterans themselves. They are the food service employees who prepare and deliver the nourishment veterans need to heal and recover from illness. They are the housekeepers who do the dirty and often hazardous work of maintaining a safe and clean hospital. They are the carpenters, mechanics, and electricians who keep the VA hospitals operating 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week.

The pay for wage grade employees is supposed to be set according to local prevailing rates—rates which compare to the same types of jobs performed by their non-federal counterparts. But for too long, federal employees have not been compensated at prevailing rates. They are not making a living wage. Many of the wage grade workers at the lower grades cannot afford the premiums on their federal health insurance plans. Some are even eligible for food stamps and hover just above the poverty level.

The Federal Wage System for these dedicated and hardworking employees is a failure. It is time to do the right thing for these workers.

The American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, the largest federal employee union, has been vigilant in urging Congress to provide the needed redress to the injustices in the Federal Wage System. My legislation, the Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001, does so and is supported by AFGE.

First, the bill would guarantee wage grade workers an annual pay raise.

Unlike their white-collar co-workers, wage grade employees are not guaranteed any annual pay raise. The nationwide General Schedule (GS) and locality pay raise we in Congress approve every year are not given to federal employees in blue-collar occupations.

It is unfair for the federal government to single out one segment of its workforce for impoverishment. A basic across the board pay adjustment each year is necessary to offset increases in their federal health care premiums as well as general increases in the cost of living. No employee of the U.S. government should see steady decreases in purchasing power from persistent wage stagnation.

Wage grade workers have seen their paychecks purchase less and less. For example, from 1984 to 1999, the pay of a General Schedule-11, step 4, employee at Warner Robins Air Force Base, in Georgia, kept pace with inflation. The pay of a Wage Grade-10, step 2, employee fell by about half. In other words, the wage grade employee's wage increases only made up for half of the increase in prices measured by the Consumer Price Index. And this loss of purchasing power doesn't even reflect the skyrocketing costs of federal health care premiums, which rose by 30 percent in the past few years.

Providing all federal blue collar workers with a minimum annual wage adjustment equal to General Schedule increases is budget neutral because of the federal government's budget assumes that wage grade workers would be awarded the GS pay raise.

Second, the legislation would lift the caps on blue-collar pay increases.

On top of not being guaranteed an annual GS pay raise, any raise blue collar workers can receive is capped at the average nationwide GS pay raise. This is unfair and wrong. If federal agencies are to remain competitive we must stop imposing an artificial and arbitrary cap on blue-collar pay raises.

Third, my legislation would end the discriminatory practice of paying Department of Defense wage grade employees less than their counterparts in VA by restoring Monroney requirements to DoD.

The "Monroney amendment" to the Federal Wage Schedule requires the government to look outside the relevant wage survey area if there is an insufficient number of analogous private sector jobs to calculate blue-collar pay. This requirement is logically necessary to ensure that the prevailing wages are based on comparable work.

In 1985, the law was amended to exclude DoD from the Monroney amendment's requirement. As a result, in San Antonio, a Wage Grade-11, step 5 blue-collar worker in the VA or other federal departments earn \$18.26 an hour but his or her counterpart in DoD earns \$.69 less an hour, or \$17.57. On overtime, that 69 cent differential becomes \$1.04 an hour in lost pay. While 69 cents an hour or \$1.04 an hour more may not seem much, it adds up for individual employees who are trying to support their families.

Fourth, the legislation would simplify the data collection and administration of the Federal Wage Schedule.

The bill would consolidate the areas surveyed for wage rates from the current 133 localities in the Federal Wage Schedule to the 32 localities drawn by the federal salary council used to set the pay for virtually every other federal employee under the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act (FEPCA). These 32 regions are a more modern and accurate reflection of contemporary labor markets and commuting patterns. Simplifying the areas of data collection used to calculate wage schedules from 32 localities rather than 133 would yield considerable savings.

The legislation would also transfer responsibility for data collection from the lead agency, the Department of Defense, to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This federal agency collects data used for other federal pay systems, most notably the GS white collar system. It already conducts data collection in the relevant localities, matching federal and non-federal jobs. While this change would impose new costs on the BLS, the consolidation of localities means that the cost of data collection to the government will go down overall.

Mr. Speaker, the single most important measure of a pay-setting system—for either white or blue-collar workers—is whether it allows workers to earn sufficient income to support a family in a decent fashion. Does it produce at least a stable standard of living? Does it hold out the hope that in good economic times, improvements in the standard of living are possible? Our current system does not.

The Federal Wage Worker Pay Fairness Act of 2001 would correct the fundamental errors in the current pay-setting system for federal blue-collar workers to ensure that they have a chance at a decent and stable standard of living. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation on behalf of our nation's federal workforce.

IN TRIBUTE TO JADE MANSFIELD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jade Allison Mansfield, a woman who lived a rich and service-filled life before suddenly passing away at the age of forty-one. Uniformly described as a pillar of the community, Jade's drowning on February 19 is a very unfortunate loss to south Monterey County. Jade personified the best in civic spirit and was well-known throughout south Monterey County for the many diverse causes she undertook in order to better her community.

Jade, a lifelong resident of Monterey County, was born in Salinas on December 9, 1959. She served for four years in the United States Air Force as a crew chief and aircraft mechanic for the F4 fighting jet. While managing a successful bakery in Palo Alto, Jade earned a degree in Political Science from California State University San Francisco and a Doctor of Jurisprudence Law from Monterey College of Law.

Upon completion of her law degree, Jade embarked on an impressive career of commu-

nity service, volunteering her services to low-income senior citizens at a local non-profit legal services office. She eventually became Legal Service's for Seniors' full time attorney, assisting dozens of clients a year in her work to protect seniors against elder abuse and financial scams.

In addition to her work on behalf of the elderly, Jade ran a law practice assisting low-income clients in south Monterey County, providing much-needed legal assistance to those least able to obtain it. Prior to earning her law degree, she worked in the Monterey County government, helping those who needed aid.

Her generosity of spirit and her commitment to her community are further demonstrated by the active role she undertook in her neighborhood, and the answering support she showed towards her grandmother. Jade worked hard in her role as President of her rural homeowners association, and was tireless in ensuring that her neighbors had clean water and in providing other small services. She happily took on the responsibility of managing her grandmother's affairs when her grandmother was no longer able to care for herself; in this service she donated many hours each week to visiting and caring for her grandmother.

Jade deeply touched the lives of those around her; her intelligence, wit, and absolute joy in life were truly remarkable. Her commitment to assisting others was manifest in all aspects of her life. Jade's passing is a terrible loss throughout Monterey County, but especially to her friends and family, the legal community, the elderly, and the countless others who knew or were assisted by her. Her energy, tenacity, and kindness will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

INTRODUCTION OF "THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT"

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2001

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the International Competitiveness Act, along with my colleagues Congresswoman JENNIFER DUNN, Congressman ADAM SMITH, and Congressman RICHARD HASTINGS. This legislation would eliminate an irrational provision in our tax code that reduces the amount of foreign capital flowing into the United States, and redirects some of the capital that flows in away from U.S.-based mutual funds toward foreign-based mutual funds.

Under present law, most kinds of interest income and short-term capital gains received directly by a foreign investor or received through a foreign mutual fund are not subject to the 30 percent withholding tax on investment income. However, interest income and short-term capital gains earned by a U.S. mutual fund on its holdings are recharacterized as dividend income when distributed to a foreign investor and is therefore subject to the withholding tax.

Mutual funds are very popular tools for investors. Many foreign investors, like U.S. investors, prefer to rely on professional managers of mutual funds in choosing an appropriate portfolio, rather than having to do the research themselves. However, a foreign investor looking to invest in the U.S. currently